

# U.S. Department of State Bureau of Diplomatic Security

Program Office: Physical Security Division, Office of Physical Security Programs

Funding Opportunity Title: Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation (RDT&E) of Blasts

Funding instrument: Federal Assistance –Cooperative Agreement

Funding Opportunity No.: DSPSP-09-CA-001-WHA-011209

Expected number of Awards: 1

CFDA No.: 00.000

Deadline for Receipt of Proposals: February 12, 2009

Anticipated Period of Award: 5 Years

## Eligibility

- a. Eligibility is limited to ABET-certified Academic educational institutions, colleges and universities -located in the United States of America. Proposals are encouraged from Historically Black Colleges and Universities in accordance with 20 USC 1067k(3) and 10 USC 2323(a)(1)(C).
- b. Responses from non-US entities, federal laboratories, and US Government academic institutions will not be accepted.
- c. Teaming arrangements will not be accepted.
- d. Cost sharing or matching is not required.
- e. A formal Request for Proposals (RFP) is hereby issued on the Internet at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). The US Department of State reserves the right to select for award all, some or one of the proposals submitted in response to the RFP. Technical and cost proposals (or any other material) submitted in response to the RFP will not be returned. It is our policy to treat all proposals as sensitive competitive information and to disclose their contents only for the purposes of evaluation. Award(s) will be considered a cooperative agreement type of federal assistance.
- f. The federal assistance award shall be written, signed, awarded, and administered by the Grants Officer. The Grants Officer is delegated this authority by the Department.

## Contact Information

- a. For functionality questions relating to Grants.gov, call the Contact Center at 1-800-518-4726
- b. For technical questions relating to the requirements in this announcement, contact Patrick Weber, Chief, DS/PSD/RD, by email at [weberph@state.gov](mailto:weberph@state.gov).
- c. All proposals shall be submitted through electronic means via [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). Proposals submitted by any other means will not be considered.

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Agency: United States Department of State (“The Department”)

## 1. Introduction

The Bureau of Diplomatic Security’s Physical Security Division (PSD), which falls under the Office of Physical Security Programs (PSP), oversees compliance with the Overseas Security Policy Board (OSPB). It ensures compliance with security standards and Department policies and procedures associated with physical security, construction security, and transit security programs at U.S. missions.

PSD strives to reduce physical security risks associated with terrorist, criminal and foreign intelligence activities directed at US overseas missions through both pro-active and responsive programs.

Maximum estimated total program funding: \$8,000,000.00  
Anticipated Period of Award: 5 Years

## 2. Purpose/Scope of Award

The recipient shall support the Department of State in seeking to advance fundamental knowledge by engaging in coordinated efforts through Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (RDT&E). These efforts are viewed as critical to our nation’s civilians and military infrastructure, both domestically and overseas. The recipient must be capable of encompassing a broad spectrum of topics relating to, but not limited to, the following:

- a. Conducting explosives testing up to but not limited to 20,000 lbs TNT equivalent
- b. Conducting High Performance Computing (HPC) simulations and modeling of complicated blast wave phenomena
- c. Developing new analytical tools to model structural systems when subjected to blast loads
- d. Performing research and analysis of explosives and energetic materials
- e. Performing RDT&E of security related buildings, systems and components, munitions, warheads, and improvised explosive devices (IEDs)
- f. Developing new methods for constructing buildings and structures that will be blast resistant as well as ballistic and forced entry resistant
- g. Investigating security and safe distance detection techniques for explosives
- h. Developing new modeling and simulation techniques
- i. Providing technical support, including feasibility studies and cost benefit analyses related to innovative, secure construction systems, and physical security countermeasures

### 3. Objectives

By coordinated efforts, the Recipient will seek optimum approaches through this cooperative agreement to perform basic and advanced research, development, testing and evaluation (RDT&E) as well as support intergovernmental programs and projects using a wide range of technologies and other disciplines of mutual interest.

### 4. Recipient's Responsibility

- a. Materials – Recipient shall supply all materials. The Department shall evaluate the suitability of materials proposed. The Department has estimated material costs based on the supplies or goods to be provided. If necessary, pricing for materials shall be competitively bid.
- b. Resources – Recipient shall use existing resources to the extent possible to demonstrate the overall benefits of this effort.
- c. Facilities – Recipient shall use the proposed facilities. Any changes to facilities shall require written approval in advance by the Grants Officer
- d. Equipment – Recipient shall provide all equipment for this effort
- e. Permits and Licenses - The Recipient is solely responsible for the preparation and submission of all licenses and permit applications required under federal, state, or local laws or regulations.

The Recipient shall not accept issuance of any permit or license which purports to impose upon the United States, Department of State, the Bureau of Diplomatic Security or any Government instrumentality or employee any obligation or liability for any permit or license except upon prior written consent

- f. Indemnification - Recipient shall not name the United States, the Department of State, the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, or any other Government instrumentality or employee as owner, operator or in any other capacity on any license or permit application required under environmental laws unless written consent is first obtained for the Government instrumentality or employee to be named.
- g. Environmental Liabilities - The Recipient is solely responsible for achieving compliance with all environmental laws.

- 1) The Recipient agrees to hold harmless, indemnify, and defend the United States, Department of State, the Bureau of Diplomatic Security and their employees and instrumentalities from and against any and all liabilities, costs, claims, fines, penalties and suits of any kind for injury to or death of any persons and for loss or damage to any property, including natural resources, occurring in connection with, or in any way incident to the release of any contaminant, or any noncompliance with any federal, state or local laws or regulations. This responsibility to hold harmless, indemnify, and defend the United States Government shall exist even if the release or noncompliance is discovered after the date this Agreement expires.
  - 2) Recipient shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws governing the recycle and disposal of materials.
- h. Non-disclosure – Recipient shall not disclose any information outside of the Department such information that may be classified, whether expressed or implied.

## 5. The Role of The Department

- a. Conduct meetings with the Recipient to discuss new developments and advances which may be a benefit to this effort .
- b. Encourage the Recipient to offer innovation and strategic approaches.
- c. Request periodic reports from the Recipient that may include a record of any equipment and materials purchased for this award, summaries of testing materials, results and methodologies, and financial reports.
- d. PSP representative shall evaluate suitability of materials to be used.
- e. Reserve the right to exercise oversight and approval of the avenue, approach, methods, or schedule of work of the projects to be conducted.

## 6. Application Instructions

- a. Proposals will be evaluated based on the following descending order of importance:
  - 1) Experience  
Address in detail each of the projects listed in Section 3: Purpose/ Scope of Award to demonstrate past experience competency with sensitive research. You may include recent works, advanced technology, exclusive rights to materials or equipment, or other special advancements that may be deemed a benefit to this effort. Organization of your proposal will be taken into consideration to demonstrate capability to align projects with the Department's objectives and implications of risks. Do not exceed 1 page per project, excluding illustrations and charts. Do not submit information that is considered classified

2) Qualified facility

Provide the location(s) and specifications of the facility, suitably equipped and capable of testing at least 20,000 lbs of TNT. Be sure to specify information such as ownership, exact location (address, city, state), and the number of acres proposed for use to perform this award.

3) Licensed Facility

Provide a copy of Federal Explosives license pursuant to 18 USC Chapter 40.

4) Facility Security Clearance

Provide a copy of the DD-254 to verify facility clearance approved by the Defense Security Service (DSS). The facility clearance must be current and recipient must be able to maintain for the term of this award. Offerors who do not have existing clearances may not be considered for award.

5) Principal Officer or Project Lead

Submit a resume for the qualified research Principal individual who will oversee this project activity. This individual shall be closely involved and continuously responsible for conducting the work. Furnish the percentage of time intended to be committed to this effort. Note that prior approval is required by the Grants Officer to change the individual named during post-award. If available, provide contact information for the Grants Manager or primary individual authorized as signatory.

b. Cost Proposal

1) Cost will be considered less important than the technical proposal.

2) Provide your cost proposal based on annual cost or expenses necessary to perform the projects as listed in Section 3: Purpose/Scope of Award at least once per year.

3) Cost realism, reasonableness, and allowable will be taken into consideration for direct and indirect costs proposed. Travel reimbursement expenses necessary to conduct further research or attend meetings scheduled by the PSP GOR, may be proposed, if approved by the Grants Officer.

4) Costs incurred in the preparation and submission of your proposal is not allowable.

c. Submission

1) Submit a completed form SF-424: Application for Federal Assistance available online at

<http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/FormLinks?family=15>

- 2) Proposals must be submitted electronically through the [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) website using the “apply” process. All applicants must register with Grants.gov prior to submitting a proposal.
  - 3) For new users, begin the registration process early since it could take up to two weeks to obtain validation and confirmation from Grants.gov. Until that process is complete, you will not be issued a user password for Grants.gov. The required information to complete the registration process is as follows:
    - a. Valid DUNS number (Contact 1-866-705-5711 for inquiries)
    - b. Registered with CCR (Central Contractor Registry)
  - 4) Proposals submitted by any other means will not be considered or reviewed.
  - 5) Proposal receipt after the specified due date and time shall be governed by the provisions of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 52.215-1(c)(3). Proposals outside of the scope as described herein will not be further reviewed.
- d. Period of Performance  
The anticipated period of performance shall be one year with four (4) option years. Renewal of an award to increase funds or to extend the period of performance is at the total discretion of the Department.
- e. Award Amount  
The estimated maximum program funding is \$8 million US dollars. The final number of projects and funds allocated will be determined based on funds availability.
- f. Anticipated Time to Award  
Applicants can expect to be notified of selection or non-selection within 60 days after the submission deadline.

## 7. Post-Award Compliance

- a. Department of State Standard Terms and Conditions for Federal Assistance Awards are incorporated by reference and made part of this Notice of Award. Electronic copies containing the complete text are available at: <http://fa.statebuy.state.gov>, under Resources select **Terms and Conditions** to access the **domestic** terms and conditions applicable to the Recipient.
- b. The recipient, in addition to the assurances and certifications made part of the Notice of Award, must comply with all applicable terms and conditions during the project period.

c. Reporting

- 1) The Recipient shall submit quarterly program reports with the financial reports within 30 days after the calendar year quarter ends. A final certified financial report and program report must be submitted to the Grants Officer Representative and Grants Officer within 90 days after the award period end date.
- 2) Financial reports are to be submitted electronically through the Payment management System under US Department of Health and Human Services available on the Internet at [www.dpm.psc.gov](http://www.dpm.psc.gov).
- 3) Program reports shall be provided in written format, in scientific and technical terms, to describe how the research aligns with the objective and scope involved. It should describe how the goals of the projects were met, what problems were encountered and how they were resolved, the likely future impact, what new contacts were made, what new plans or projects were conceived, and what issues were discussed and the participants. Additional project documentation is encouraged with the final report such as photos, detailed write-ups, and published information, which demonstrate the overall benefits of the award.

d. Monitoring

- 1) The Department shall be granted access to the Recipient's site upon request.
- 2) The Department shall be invited to be present at any and all scheduled tests conducted for this effort.

e. Payment Method

- 1) Payments under this award will be made through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Payment Management System (PMS). The Payment Management System instructions are available under the PMS Website and can be accessed at the following address: <http://www.dpm.psc.gov>.
- 2) Recipients shall request funds based on immediate disbursement requirements and disburse funds as soon as possible to minimize the Federal cash on hand in accordance with the policies established by the U.S. Treasury Department and mandated by the OMB Circulars.